

TRADEWINDS

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Agricultural Export Program

EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- China: squid, cranberries, dried tomatoes, walnuts, cotton, fresh and dried jellyfish, hides, and pistachios
- Korea: protein powders and wine
- Saudi Arabia: milk powder
- Taiwan: soybean fertilizers, chicken parts, rice, and bourbon whiskey
- Tajikistan: frozen beef and chicken
- Thailand: wine and fresh berries
- Turkey: soybean meal
- Yemen: sweet whey powder, wheat, and semolina

For details, please contact AEP at aepinfo@cdfa.ca.gov.

Seminar in Exporting Organic Products

California organic exporters may learn how to develop and expand their business into international markets at a seminar in Santa Rosa on November 18, 2004 titled "Organic Export: Succeeding in the Global Marketplace."

For further details, please visit www.copes-ca.org/seminars.php.

The Certified Organic Products Export Strategy program (COPES) is offering the seminar. COPES is a direct result of a competitive grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture awarded to the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) to increase awareness and export opportunities for the state's organic specialty crops.

RECENT FAS / USDA REPORTS

The following reports of interest were released during the month of October. The reports are available at www.fas.usda.gov.

China: Exporter Guide

EU-25: Certification Guide

South Africa: Country Report

Hong Kong: Exporter Guide

UPCOMING EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

CDFA / AEP INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

November 30, 2004, Sacramento

AEP is coordinating a visit to California and CDFA from the Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, His Excellency Israel Katz.

U.S.-AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE November 7-10, 2004, Monterey

USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman and CDFA Undersecretary Chuck Ahlem are confirmed speakers at the conference, which will bring together key players in the agribusiness industry from the United States and Africa.

For details and registration, please follow the link at www.calagexports.com/trade_show_cal.asp.

CHINESE FOODSERVICE BUYER MISSION November 14-15, 2004, Monterey

AEP is facilitating site visits and a culinary demonstration for a delegation of chefs from Shanghai.

For more information, please e-mail AEP at aepinfo@cdfa.ca.gov.

Comment Period on Second Draft of Japan's New MRL Positive List

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) released the Second Provisional Draft of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) on August 20. This list is open for public comment until November 30, 2004.

The MHLW is in the process of implementing a "positive list system" of allowable chemical residues, which will prohibit the distribution of foods that contain agricultural chemicals if MRLs for that chemical have not been established.

Unofficial instructions for public comments are available in the Foreign Agricultural Service's GAIN Report JA4067.

Japan and Taiwan to Resume Imports of U.S. Beef

The USDA recently welcomed agreements reached with Japan and Taiwan regarding the resumption of exports of U.S. beef and beef products to those countries. Trade in U.S. beef was banned in December 2003 after a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was found in Washington state.

The agreement with Japan, which was announced on October 23, will permit the export of U.S. beef and products from animals younger than 21 months old.

U.S. officials announced on October 26 that "Taiwan has agreed in principle to resume imports of U.S. beef and beef products." According to Taiwanese officials, "required assessments and evaluations... were nearing completion."

In 2002, exports of California beef and beef products to Japan were valued at \$59 million, and exports to Taiwan totaled \$10 million.

For more details, please visit www.fas.usda.gov/.

Source: USDA News Releases; California Department of Food and Agriculture

Sanctions on American Products Removed by European Union

European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy announced on October 25 that the EU will suspend sanctions on a wide range of U.S. exports after President Bush signed a bill repealing export subsidies available from the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC).

After the WTO ruled that the FSC provides illegal subsidies to U.S. exporters in May 2003, the EU started retaliating against the United States in March 2004 with punitive import duties on a range of products.

The new U.S. law will apply as of January 1, 2005. The EU is prepared to accept a two-year transitional period but believes a grandfathering clause, under which U.S. exporters who entered binding contracts before September 17, 2003, could still benefit from tax breaks beyond the December 2006 deadline, to be contrary to WTO rules. The EU will now ask the WTO dispute settlement system to review the WTO compliance of the new U.S. law.

Source: USDA/FAS GAIN Report E34077

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Secretary, A. G. Kawamura

Undersecretary, Chuck Ahlem

Agricultural Export Program

Patricia "Kelsey" Olson, Joshua Eddy, Sarah Logue, Anela Pompei, and Kaori Matsuda

